(c) whether it is also a fact that CIFNET wants to open more branches all over the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Review of situation prevailing in suicide hit areas

2903. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several farmers especially in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh committed suicide in the last few Months;

(b) whether Government have conducted any review of the situation prevailing broadly with agriculturists across the country with a view to identifying the most vulnerable ones among them, in particular, due to crop failure, price crash, etc. and evolving a rescue package to enable them the difficult situation and prevent suicides;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Recent cases of suicide by farmers in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, as reported by the State Government, are as follows:

State	Period	No. of suicide by farmers
Andhra Pradesh	2004-05 (14.4.05 to 11.11.05)	1068
Maharashtra	2005	142

(b) to (d) The incidents of suicide by farmers is under review by the Government and the Government of India is in touch with the State Governments concened in this regard. Recently a meeting was held at

Hyderabad on 10th April, 2006 with the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra, in connection with drawing up a pacakge for the districts worst affected by the incidence of suicide by farmers. The package would address their credit, insurance, irrigation and subsidiary income needs, through dairy, poultry and horticulture.

Social security cover for fishermen

2904. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have schemes and programmes for the social security cover for the fishermen against accidents caused by cyclone, super-cyclone, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for the socio-economic protection of small fishermen in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (d) The assistance is extend to the people including fishermen affected by the natural calamities such as cyclone, super-cyclone etc. from the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). This includes repair/replacement of boats, nets demaged or lost, input subsidy etc. Besides, Centrally Sponsored National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen comprising of Group Accident Insurance for Active Fishermen, Development of Model Fishermen Villages through construction of houses, community hall and drinking water facilities and Saving-cum-Relief components is in operation during the Tenth Plan. Under the Group Accident Insurance component, assistance of Rs. 50,000 in case of accidental death/Permanent total disability and Rs,. 25000 for permanent partial disability is provided to the families of the affected fishermen cover under the scheme. Further, safety of fishermen at sea is one of the main components of the macro scheme on Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations. Under this component, financial assistance to the extent of 20% cost or subject to maximum of Rs. 30,000 per unit is extended through National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for installation of